



Ann Arbor SPARK 2010 Annual Report

On May 26, 2005, dozens of civic leaders, venture capitalists, business executives, faculty researchers, local government officials and University of Michigan staff members converged on downtown Ann Arbor for a landmark event.

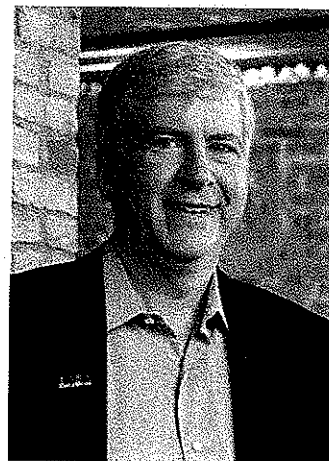
They were celebrating the launch of Ann Arbor SPARK — a public-private partnership formed to advance innovation-based economic development in the region.

The concept for Ann Arbor SPARK had ignited earlier that year at a meeting of the University of Michigan's Tech Transfer National Advisory Board. Their recommendation: boost technology transfer by establishing the Ann Arbor area as a national center for innovation, business creation and talent.

It was a case of the right idea at the right time.



return on investment



In 2005, those of us serving on the U-M Tech Transfer National Advisory Board decided the time had come to aim higher and achieve more. Our goal was to make southeast Michigan a national center for innovation, business growth and world-class talent. Following the example of America's major innovation hubs, we engaged the entire community and ultimately partnered with 20 organizations willing to invest their time, talent and money. To date, the return on that investment has been outstanding. SPARK started strong and will finish even stronger.



Michigan Governor Rick Snyder

2010 SPARK Success

- 42 company growth projects creating:
 - \$151 million in new investment commitments
 - 1,425 new jobs
- Assisted 62 innovation start-ups
- Awarded 12 pre-seed investments and 30 microloans
- Nurturing 60 incubator tenants
- Assisted 400 companies with 1,300 job postings

- 2006 – 2010 YTD Results
- 176 project successes - \$1.25 billion new investment commitments
- 10,474 new jobs and 6,236 jobs retained
- Assisted 278 innovation start-ups
- 54 Pre-Seed investments in 52 companies (\$225k/company average)
- 48 Microloans in 46 companies (\$39k/company average)
- 177 tenants in three regional incubators
- Leveraged community investments to over \$34 million – through Federal and State grants, equipment donation to MIED, foundations and other sources
- Assisted 1,401 companies with 4,105 job postings
- Assisted 4,300+ job seekers with employment searches